

**DREDGE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2005
DES PEASE FIELD OFFICE**

The meeting was held on Thursday April 7, 2005 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM, at DES office at 50 International Drive, Pease Tradeport.

Announcements/Introductions:

Chairman asked members to introduce themselves. Attendance list is attached.

Review of Minutes; (Meeting of 17 February 2005): There are two errors. A copy of the corrected minutes will be mailed to TF.

Seabrook Section 227 Project- ACOE (Mark Habel) said they are within days of demobilizing the Seabrook project. ACOE will judge the success at the next survey of the Seabrook anchorage. The rip rap along River Street is constructed of heavy stone with large voids and, as the tide falls, it is acting as a pipe for the flow of the ebb tide. It goes along the face of the bank of River Street and into the Seabrook anchorage at its upper end. Sand is building up so they will do one of two things. One would be to excavate the sand fill where it's against the rip rap and put in a run of gravel and some filter fabric before filling the sand back in. The other would be to form a barrier parallel to the east wall that runs back through the rip rap to the bank of River Street. Town of Seabrook (Suzanne Manzi) asked if ACOE would appear before the board of Selectman to explain the project and the results. ACOE (Habel) accepted the invitation. DES (Richardson) stated he would present a slide show at the next DMTF meeting. Richardson said he and Scott Leonard of the ACOE have a whole library of slides that would be of interest to the group.

NMFS (Mike Johnson) asked who would be paying for the monitoring. DES (Richardson) said it is written into the permit that the permit holder is responsible for the five year monitoring plan. Richardson asked if the ACOE would supply him with aerial photography, which is an important part of the monitoring process. ACOE (Habel) said the photos will be made available to DES (Richardson). Chair said the letter sent to the Congressional delegation asked for additional monitoring. EPA (Olga Guza) asked if five year monitoring is standard. DES (Richardson) said that the monitoring period corresponds to the life of the Wetlands Bureau's permit. Discussion followed. NMFS (Johnson) said there are some concerns regarding the alterations of the hydrology of the Blackwater River and the possible erosion of the remaining clam flats in the Middle Ground area. UNH (Tom Shevenell) said UNH and the COE would be doing that type of monitoring between now (April, 2005) and the end of August 2005. Town of Seabrook (Manzi) asked if there is a detailed monitoring plan in the permit. DES (Richardson) said the protocol is spelled out in the conditions of the permit. Chair asked for comments about ACOE's two options

for correcting the sand buildup at the Seabrook anchorage. ACOE (Habel) said the ACOE will make a decision on it within the next day or so.

Chair asked PDA Ports and Harbors (Marconi) if the dredging went along as he expected. P&H (Marconi) said the contractor was professional and responsive to the needs of the project. He added that he hoped the area would not need dredging for another five to seven years. Seabrook (Manzi) said the sand placed on the beach was good quality. Chair asked how the sand was moved into Sun Valley. DES (Richardson) said it had to be moved in with a loader. He issued an emergency authorization for one property and portions of two abutting properties. He continued by saying the neighbors in that area have formed an alliance to see if the state will support funding to create a $\frac{3}{4}$ tide jetty. He said it may work out to be matching funds where the residents would contribute money toward the construction of the contiguous stone revetment and then try for matching funds from some entity. He has assured the residents that the long-term plan will be for contiguous shore land stabilization with a stone revetment. Chair asked for other comments. ACOE (Roach) said he spoke with US Fish and Wildlife (Susi von Oettingen) and she reported that the project was well done and is sure the Plover population will return.

Cocheco River Dredge-Walsh – ACOE (Mike Walsh) reported that there was a meeting to discuss the COE's request for an extension to the dredge window and DES granted an extension until April 7 or to when the water hits 13 degrees Celsius. They ran into a rock obstruction in the channel and removed it. They expected to go back to maintenance dredging but ran into more rock. They made the choice to use the funding left in the contract to finish out the rest of the dredge season so worked to remove the rock which brought them to March 25th and they stopped that day. He went on to say \$700K from previous years has been appropriated by Congress. The ACOE will use that money to finish the project next year. Sen. Sununu (Liz Chamberlain) asked if it could become a three-year project. ACOE (Walsh) will not know that until they get an idea of the size and structure of the rock in the area and re-bid the project. The goal is to complete the project next year. Chamberlain asked if this would drive up the cost of the project. COE (Walsh) said it may but it is hard to say what types and amounts of material is left to be removed and they will determine that with more probe testing. Discussion followed regarding how much channel depth is being lost to the ledge and if it is necessary to have a 7' depth through the ledge area. Chamberlain asked when the COE will begin the probe testing to make the determination of how much is left to remove. COE (Walsh) said they will begin within the next two weeks (April 11 – April 21, 2005). It will take one or two months to get an idea of what is left to remove. Sen. Gregg (Rich Lougee) asked if blasting would be considered in order to keep costs down. COE (Walsh) said if it becomes the least-cost alternative they will approach the state to talk about it but he is not convinced it is the cheapest method. Chair asked if the data from the probes will be available at the next meeting. COE (Walsh) said he will have the reports by then. He added that during a site visit of this morning (April 7, 2005) he observed a sheen that he presumes is from a release of product from the banking at low tide. NHF&G (Clare McBane) asked if Public Service is finished with their project. COE (Walsh) said he thinks they have a couple of piles left to place. NMFS (Johnson) asked how far the observed sheen is from the coal tar contaminated sediments. COE

(Walsh) said it is in the same area. Discussion followed regarding the presence of coal tar from previous manufacturing. COE (Walsh) said the COE did not intend to disturb the bank during dredging operations. DES (Richardson) asked if the diffuser box from the old treatment plant had been removed. COE (Walsh) said it has been removed.

Sagamore Creek – Walsh, Roach, Richardson – Chair asked COE if there is an update on the eelgrass issue. COE (Walsh) said they were unable to coordinate a meeting between parties but they have one scheduled for May 3, 2005 at UNH. Attendees will be the EPA, Fred Short from Jackson Lab and NMFS.

Chair asked COE (Roach) if he had anything to report regarding Witch Cove Marina. COE (Roach) said he expects the COE to meet with Mr. Nadeau because he continues to ask the COE to move away from his docks. Roach continued by saying the 1975 survey shows the marina to be at the edge of the navigable channel so they may not tell Mr. Nadeau to vacate. The COE can't quite determine how far out into the Creek he was allowed to be so it can't be proven that his floats and boats are in the channel. To avoid the boats being in the way of the dredge project, the channel may have to be moved and that will mean a possible impact on the shallow vegetation. It would mean removing more material and that will incur higher costs. The Division of Ports and Harbors would have to advocate moving the channel at the request of a private party and the state would have to deliberate whether to support Mr. Nadeau. Mr. Nadeau makes the point that the marina is a public facility that provides public access. PDA (Marconi) said Mr. Nadeau sent letters and documents to him including the enabling legislation RSA 12-G which supports the development of facilities to accommodate visiting boaters. Discussion followed. COE (Ed O'Donnell) said there may be another option, one that was used in the Cocheco River at George's Marina where they cut the project off before the marina. If the state wants to do that it will take Congressional action to do so.

They hope to meet with Witch Cove Marina representatives before the next DMTF meeting.

Other Business –

**Hampton River Erosion* - was covered earlier.

**Section 107 & 227 funding* – Chair chose to review this issue later.

**UNH Pier, Rock Cribbing Disposal* – ACOE (Roach) said there was a meeting to discuss it and NMFS (Johnson) said he would like to see it go back into the marine environment. F&G (Clare McBane) stated that F&G suggested Gun Boat Shoal as a location for the rock. NMFS (Johnson) said ideally it would be a location within close proximity and with similar habitat. Discussion followed about being sensitive to the individuals who use the area. F&G (McBane) asked where the wood will be placed and Roach said it goes to the dump. NMFS (Johnson) said UNH has not done a cost analysis of the different options for disposal of the rock; offshore versus upland. DES (Richardson) asked if disassembling the cribs where they are and placing the rock in the river adjacent to the pier is still an option. NMFS (Johnson) said it is not possible to place them there because it will interfere with navigation. (COE) Roach suggested members contact Rich Rouleau at UNH if they have any other suggestions. DES (Mike

Sills) said he thinks the Coast Guard will be putting in their eel grass-friendly moorings in the near future but will be doing the dredging next winter. DES (Richardson) said the CG has not contacted the Wetlands Bureau with regards to their intentions.

***Comprehensive (Upland) Dredge Spoil Disposal Study** - Chairman read a copy of an email received from ACOE (Saji Varghese) which says they have identified numerous potential upland sites and are in the process of verifying them. They will have a draft report by the end of May 2005 and will send it to the TF for comments. He will finalize the report by July 2005. Chair hopes to have the draft report for the next meeting. Chairman then spoke about WRDA (Water Resource Development Act). He said that letters have been received from DES and Ports and Harbors regarding WRDA reauthorization. A number of projects have gone in to the Congressional delegations but PDA (Marconi) said it's a roll of the dice. Chair asked if the representatives of Senator Sununu and Senator Gregg have heard any news. They have not. COE (Habel) said he has heard it is getting bogged down with whether or not they are going to include the COE reform provision. He continued by saying the deadline for submittal of the budget to the House of Representatives has just passed but the Senate still has another week or two for their submittals. Sen. Sununu (Chamberlain) said that if the Army Corps changes the process for deciding which projects to commit to, the Congressional delegations from smaller states will have no choice but to earmark them. Chair said he hopes to have an update on that for the next meeting.

EPA (Olga Guza) encouraged the members to attend a meeting being held by the Sudbury Group on May 17, 2005 in Kittery, Maine. The meeting was set up to ensure participation from state entities in New Hampshire and Maine. The agenda will be tailored partly to issues of interest to Maine and NH staff but will have technical issues of interest to everyone. She will send a notification to the DMTF and suggests members send her items to be included on the agenda for discussion.

Town of Seabrook (Manzi) asked how much of the \$1 million was spent on the Seabrook project. PDA (Marconi) said the dredging costs were \$735K + - and the design, engineering, permitting and oversight costs to Appledore Engineering were about \$130K.

***Schedule Next DMTF Meeting** – Chair asked if Thursday May 26, 2005 at 1:30 is acceptable to the group. All agreed.

Adjourned 3:00 PM.